

REMARKS

In this Preliminary Amendment A, claims 52 and 56 have been amended, while claims 1-51 and 64-72 have been cancelled (consistent with the Response to Restriction Requirement discussed further below). More specifically, with this Preliminary Amendment A:

- Claim 52 has been amended to require that the vacancy-dominated, axially symmetric region of the claimed wafer contain agglomerated vacancy defects. Support for this amendment may be found in the specification, for example, on page 13 (lines 15-18), page 33 (lines 17-20), and page 34 (lines 3-8), wherein it is indicated that this vacancy-dominated region may *optionally* be free of such defects.
- Claim 56 has been amended to correct a typographical error, prior to which claim 56 was the same as claim 55. With this amendment, claim 56 requires that the interstitial-dominated, axially symmetric region have a radial width of about 60% of the length of the radius of the ingot. Support for this amendment may be found in the specification, for example, on page 14 (lines 18-24).

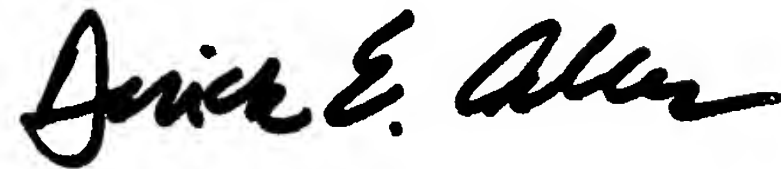
RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the claims of Group II (i.e., claims 52-63), and to cancel the claims of Group I (i.e., claims 1-52) and Group III (i.e., claims 64-72) without prejudice. Applicants also hereby reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to any of the non-elected claims during the pendency of this application.

CONCLUSION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-1345.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Derick E. Allen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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